

In This Issue

...ina ia manino le folauga. Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter

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# Governor clarifies issue involving USMLE

Tulafono explained during his even the Governor cannot weekend radio program that change the law. certification **USMLE** by statute, and he urges all an effort to pass this very important examination.

This comes hospital **CEO** Gerstenberger said the LBJ Medical Center made proposal to Togiola to allow Regulatory Board consider alternatives to the USMLE.

that he cannot approve the hospital's proposal, as local

Togiola laws are already in place and who did not graduate from

doctors at the LBJ Hospital is the USMLE dates back three years, when LBJ began local doctors who have not yet enforcing the USMLE requirepassed the USMLE to make ment - something that stirred notified the LBJ that the up strong opposition from many local doctors. At the after time, Togiola explained that Mike the same test is mandated for physicians who graduate from a medical schools in foreign countries but wish to work in the US.

He added that US doctors are already USMLE Togiola made it clear certified and are therefore allowed to practice medicine in the territory. However, those

US medical schools, and did not take the USMLE, are He said the issue with required to sit and pass the USMLE to be certified in order to work at the LBJ.

> Togiola said he had USMLE requirement is by statute and therefore, they should not seek his approval something that already been passed into law. He has made it clear that he is firm on his stance with regards to the USMLE, and he would not risk by-passing any requirements that involve certifying the competency of doctors who work at the local hospital.

## Tax refund checks still being disbursed

About 700 local tax payers received tax refund checks totaling \$708,204 late last week when the Treasury Department released batch #12 which covers everyone who filed their taxes on or before April 4.

Of the total amount released last week, \$295,274 was for the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC); \$282,659 for local tax; and \$130,271 for the Making Work Pay Credit.

So far this year, about \$13.6 million in tax refund checks have been released - \$7.25 million for the ACTC; \$4.42 for local; and \$1.94 for the MWPC.

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For additional news, information and much, much, more about your government, visit the ASG Website at http://www. american

samoa.gov

# Togiola says ASG employees who support administration's early retirement bill should lobby lawmakers

wants every government employee three times to the Fono for approval. who supports the administration's to approve the measure.

Togiola made the statement several during his weekend radio program.

According to the Governor,

Governor Togiola Tulafono the bill has been submitted at least that they will act on the measure and

Togiola says there is not much bill that provides incentives for early the administration can do at this point, lump sum payment of \$20,000 would retirement to lobby their lawmakers as the bill is not supported by the ASG be paid out to employees with thirty Employees' Retirement Fund and years of service, and \$15,000 for lawmakers. The reconvenes for its regular session next if these employees choose to retire month and the Governor is hopeful

pass it.

Under the bill, a one-time Fono employees with 15 years of service early.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## To all alcoholic beverage licensees

Be advised that the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Ta'ita'itama Prevent Underage Drinking Initiative and the Alcoholic Beverage **Control Board** 

will be conducting compliance check activities in your area beginning December 2010 and continuing through December 2011.

Please remember that selling alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years old is illegal per American Samoa Code, Title 27, Chapter 05; Section 27.0531:

"No licensee may sell any alcoholic beverage to any person under 21." American Samoa is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its people. Our priority issue is to combat and prevent underage drinking and the problems that arise from this illegal activity.

For additional information, feel free to contact the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws - EUDL Program at 633-1582.

#### ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: KSBS FM 92.1 Saturdays @ 7:30 a.m.

## Female prisoners at TCF complete course made possible by the DYWA

Tafuna Correctional Facility spent nearly 4 months participating in a federally funded course provided by of the course, the inmates received certification and proudly displayed their handiwork during a brief ceremony attended by Lt. Gov.

A dozen female inmates at the Faoa Sunia, Police Commissioner accepted the donation for Tuaolo Fruean, and DYWA director Leiataua Leuga Turner.

the Department of Youth and Items produced included shirts, Women's Affairs. Upon completion pillows, pillowcases, sheets, etc... The bedding items were donated to the LBJ Medical Center.

Hospital CEO Mike Gerstenberger

hospital and said the items will go a long way in helping the hospital and its patients.

Leiataua said they are looking at launching a program for male prisoners later this year September.

# **American Samoa Council Arts, Culture & Humanities**

#### presents

### The Children's Culture Maintenance **Summer Program 2011**

The American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, and Humanities will be sponsoring its Children's Culture Maintenance Summer Program 2011 at the Museum compound in Fagatogo from June 27 - July 22, 2011.

Children will learn: weaving, carving, Samoan legends, siapo-making, Samoan dance and music.

Registration is now open. Please visit our office to register your child (\$5 per child: registration fee). For more information, call our office at 633-4347/4490/5613.

E mana'omia faia'oga lalaga Faamolemole faafesoota'i mai le matou ofisa i le telefoni 633-4347

We need weaving instructors Please contact our office @ 633-4347

#### SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER *"TAPUITEA"*

Contact: Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Chanel Barber (chanel.barber@doit.as)

#### HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On June 22, 1914, at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, "a communication dated May 26, 1914, allotting \$2100.00 was received. From June 23, 1914 to June 30, 1914, 74 signals were erected. The quantity of work accomplished between these dates was enormous, and was done under most trying conditions of weather and topography, as will be shown in the monthly report of progress made by the officer in charge, Lieutenant Beall, U.S. Navy."

On June 23, 1954, German-born American sailor William Willis, age 61, set sail from Callao, Peru for Australia via Samoa, aboard his balsa log raft *The Seven Little Sisters*. (The name referred to the seven logs). He was accompanied by his parrot "Eekie" and his cat "Meekie."

On June 24, 1884, HMS *Calliope*, the only ship to survive the Great Apia Hurricane of March 15-16, 1889, was launched by Lady Phipps Hornby at Portsmouth Dockyard, England. She was commissioned in 1887. In 1907, following the end of her active service, and as well as acting as a recruiting vessel for the first world war, *Calliope* became a drill ship for the Tyne Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. She was employed in that duty for several decades, under the name *Helicon* between 1914 and 1931, reverting to HMS *Calliope* to finish her years. The ship was finally sold for scrapping in 1951. The establishment is now a shore based one and continues to function today.

On June 26, 1917, a powerful earthquake with an an epicenter seventy miles southeast of Apia shook Samoa. "The first effects were felt at 6:23 p.m., when the inhabitants of Apia and district were startled by the vibrations which for the first few seconds caused little alarm. Buildings shook violently, iron roofs rattled, ornaments, glasses, crockery on shelves toppled and the ground rocked in a most alarming manner." "Professor Augenheister of the German-built observatory at Mulinu'u registered the quake at 8.3 on the Richter scale."

On June 26, 1938, Captain Edward William Hanson took office as American Samoa's 26th naval governor.

On June 26, 1988, Agnes Genevieve "Aggie" Grey, QSO (Honorary Companion of the Queen's Service Order for Community Service), Western Samoa's legendary hotelier, passed away, aged 90 years and 8 months.

On June 27, 1929, Tupua Tamasese Lealofi III returned to Samoa aboard the vessel *Tofua*, following his exile and imprisonment in New Zealand for *Mau*-related activities. "...before he was allowed to land an official presented him with a summons for the same taxes he had not paid and for which he had already served six months in prison."

On June 28, 1906, "Congress provided for the acknowledgement of deeds in American Samoa, to be attested by the certificate of the governor."

On June 29, 1943, the Commander, South Pacific Force of the United States Pacific Fleet forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet (Admiral Chester W. Nimitz) his plan for "Base Development--Upolu."

#### American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA)

#### Plastic Shopping Bags BAN

Plastic Free, The Way To Be...
Alternative Plastic Shopping Bag Serial
Numbers Approved

AS-EPA would like to remind the public and retailers that only alternative plastic shopping bags that have been specifically approved by the AS-EPA can be distributed in American Samoa. The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has worked closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE) in Samoa and has reviewed the bags and documents submitted by various retailers concerning the use of "Samoa Biobags." Based upon AS-EPA's review, "Samoa Biobags" are compliant with the new Plastic Shopping Bag Ban (PSBB), A.S.C.A. 25.2034 if they have the following serial numbers:

- CPMNREPTI/0808002
- CPMNREPTI/0710001
- CPMNREATC/0610001
- CPMNREFEE/0211009

Retailers and restaurants may use these alternative shopping bags in their stores; however, they must still comply with all other aspects of the PSBB. This is not an approval for any other plastic bag. All "Samoa Biobags" must have one of the serial numbers listed above printed on the bag to be eligible under this approval. This approval is granted with the understanding that it will expire on the date of expiration of the certification from MNRE in Samoa and may be rescinded sooner if found necessary by AS-EPA.

We also encourage any store that wishes to use alternative plastic bags to pick up instructions and a submission from our office in Pago Plaza to help expedite the approval process.

For more information please call AS-EPA at 633-2304 or visit our website: www.asepa.gov

# ASCC Agriculture Majors Participate In Guam Internship

(Press Release) Two General Agriculture majors at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) have joined a gathering of their peers from Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Guam, Palau, Puerto Rico and the Federated States of Micronesia for a three and a half week summer internship under the CariPac Consortium, an Internship program through which all land grant institutions in the Caribbean and the Pacific collaborate and share information about agricultural innovation. research applications. Currently underway at the University of Guam (UOG) campus, the consortium will continue through June 23.

Students: Samuel Ioka Meleisea and Ryan A. Taifane, both in the General Agriculture program offered by the Community & Natural Resources (CNR) division of ASCC, selected attend were to the criteria consortium based on including their GPA and the results of a student interview. Taifane has graduated from ASCC Magna Cum Laude in the spring of this year, while Meleisea expects to graduate this fall. Both students are also affiliated with the ASCC chapter of the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa honors society.

CariPac was formed as a consortium to help address the challenges of providing food and agricultural education to college and university students in the Caribbean and Pacific Islands. In essence, the eight Land Grant colleges and universities in the U.S. insular areas came together to leverage their respective resources, develop new collaborative efforts and to strengthen their own programs. The

University of Puerto Rico hosted the Internship program for the past three years, and all the interns had to travel to Puerto Rico for four weeks. This is the first year it is hosted by the University of Guam. participate in a variety of field observations and hands-on laboratories where they can observe and learn about the agricultural businesses and activities that are found on Guam," said Dr. Prem Singh, UOG faculty member and CariPac Internship Program Coordinator.

Activities include visits to a variety of farms, including the Department of Agriculture organic farm; the Triton Farm's aquaponics facility; the Watson vegetable/fruit farm which uses a drip irrigation and fertigation system on a farm scale, and utilizes many innovations in its operation; the Ernie Wusting Corn Farm which utilizes a no-till corn production method and which has reduced soil erosion and increased soil depth; Quan's Coconut Farm which supplies fresh coconut drinks tourism industry; Hydroponic Living Lettuce farm; and local plant nurseries to learn about the business and production aspects of modern agribusinesses. They will also visit the ecotourism facility Hamamoto Fruit World to observe how to combine tourism, ecology, vegetable and fruit production, and post harvesting and processing to develop a business enterprise.

In the UOG labs they will learn about plant propagation and grafting and agricultural engineering technologies for Sustainable Tropical Agriculture. The students will learn how to setup an automated micro-irrigation system, irrigation controllers, and learn about

water harvesting canopies among other activities. They will also learn about biotechnology in agriculture observe iuvenile shrimp and production facilities **UOG's** aquaculture facility and how Guam is fighting the invasion of Rhino beetle that threatens the existence of coconut trees on Guam. "This is an all encompassing three and a half weeks where these students get the opportunity to absorb information that they can take back to their home islands to enhance their agricultural economies," said Lee Yudin, Dean of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences and Investigator Principal consortium grant.

CNR Dean and Director Tapaau Daniel Aga congratulated Meleaisea and Taifane on applying successfully for the "American Samoa has Internship. enormous challenges as well as exciting opportunities to strengthen agriculture, food security, improve health", said Tapaau, "not to forget maintaining our natural resources like forests, water, and coasts. The parents of Sam and Ryan must be proud to see their children represent American Samoa in this internship experience as well as meet other Pacific Islanders and Caribbean Islanders. It's great for us at CNR to see some of our most talented youth show a desire to enter the field of agriculture."

Tapaau reflected that this is the fourth year CNR students have participated in the CariPac Internship. In past years, former students Toepo Leiataua and Pauline McFall attended the summer program when it was held in Puerto Rico, and both went on to later join CNR as employees.

# All three community health centers equipped with base radios

The Department of Health, in its second quarter performance report for fiscal year 2011, reports that all three community health centers located in Tutuila are equipped with base radios. The radios are similar to those used by local emergency responders to communicate with each other during times of disasters

when phone lines experience disruption in service.

The base radios allow the community health centers to communicate not only with each other but also with the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the hospital.

experience "This is a step forward for our emergency preparedness capabilities," says the report. allow the "During a disaster, if landlines and enters to mobile phones are inoperable, these with each entities will still be able to Emergency communicate with each other."

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#### **IMMUNIZE ADOLESCENTS**

#### Come join the adolescent (11-14yrs) outreach!

**HPV** (Human Papillomavirus)

Info about the disease

• HPV causes cervical cancer

For full protection:

- HPV1 today
- HPV2 in 1 month
- HPV3 in 4 months

MCV4 (Meningococcal Disease)

Info about the disease

- Meningococcal is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis
- Can also cause blood infections
- MCV4 is required by some colleges For protection:
  - MCV4 today

TdaP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis)

- Tetanus causes painful muscle spasms
- Diphtheria causes breathing problems, paralysis, and heart failure
- Pertussis causes severe coughing spells, vomiting For protection:
- TdaP today

Get your shots today and receive one of the following: neon arm band, dog tag, and lanyard.

1st outreach: June 18, Utulei Beach

2<sup>nd</sup> outreach: July 23, Utulei Beach

3<sup>rd</sup> outreach: October 29, Utulei Beach

Call us for more information at 699-8464 or 699-8465 Remember to bring your parents to sign your consent form!

# **American Samoa Government Department of Education**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

All students interested and planning to enter as Freshmen 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Nu'uuli Vocational Technical High School - School Year 2011-2012:

**June 20 -** Student Services Office at DOE in Utulei will accept all important documents for students who are interested in attending NVTHS;

July 6 - Deadline to submit all important documents at DOE Student Services Office in Utulei;

**July 11-12** - Administer Freshmen Basic Skills Assessment in Math and English at Nu'uuli Voc-Tech campus for all students who are cleared from Student Services Office in Utulei;

July 13-14 - Panel interview with individual students. Parents are encouraged to accompany their son or daughter;

Everyone must bring the following documents when signing up at Student Services Office at DOE in Utulei:

- Original Birth Certificate
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade certificate of completion
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade report card
- Immunization card
- Social security card
- Optional One letter of recommendation from a teacher/administrator, counselor, church leader, and/or community member.
- \*\*\*Foreign nationals must bring documentation of immigration status.
- \*\*\*Private schools must bring clearance from their school administration.

Every student must get a clearance from Student Services Office before sitting the Freshmen Basic Skills Assessment in Math and English on July 11-12, 2011. Please being two #2 pencils with you for the Basic Skills Assessment.

For more information, please call: Student Services @ DOE Central Office - 633-2678

#### **Department of Parks & Recreation**

in collaboration with

#### The American Samoa Aquatic Agency

Announces

# Open Water Swimming and Water Safety Program 2011 for children ages 8 – 17

Sign ups are now being conducted at Utulei Beach and at the Department of Parks & Recreation office.

Space is very limited so availability is on a <u>first come</u>, <u>first served basis</u>. Sign up schedule:

- Utulei Beach 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- Parks & Rec. office 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

Program Schedule: Lessons will be given every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m. beginning June 14th thru August 12th.